

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A process to prepare nanostructured materials comprising ~~the steps of:~~
  - generating a plasma using a free-burning electric arc;
  - introducing an oxidizing gas into the plasma before the plasma is expanded into a field free zone;
  - injecting a precursor material into the plasma ~~in the area of the plasma~~ before the plasma is expanded into a field free zone through at least one of a current carrying region of an anodic column and a current carrying region of a cathodic column;
  - transferring energy from the plasma to the precursor material and forming at least one of a stoichiometric-nanostructured material and a vapor that may be condensed to form a stoichiometric-nanostructured material ~~in the area of the plasma~~ before the plasma is expanded into a field free zone; and
  - recovering the stoichiometric-nanostructured material.
3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the ~~step of~~ injecting comprises injecting the precursor material into the current carrying region of the cathodic column through forced convection.
4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 7, wherein the ~~step of~~ introducing comprises introducing the oxidizing gas into the current carrying region of the anodic column of the transferred electric arc.
5. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the ~~step of~~ introducing comprises introducing the oxidizing gas into the current carrying region of the anodic column of the free-burning electric arc.
6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2, further comprising injecting at least one of a quench and dilution stream into the plasma.

7. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the plasma is generated by a transferred electric arc.

8. (Cancelled)